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Paper No. 10

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of
James N. Chang and Teresa H. Kuan
Application No. 10/017,817
Filed: December 14, 2001
Attorney Docket No. D-3011
Title: OPHTHALMIC COMPOSITIONS OF
LUBRICATING EYES AND METHODS
FOR MAKING AND USING SAME

DECISION ON PETITION
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.137(f)

This is a decision on the petition filed on August 25, 2003, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.137(f), to revive the above-identified application.

A grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(f) must be accompanied by:

- (1) Notification of the filing of an application in a foreign country or under a multinational treaty that requires 18 month publication¹;
- (2) The petition fee as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(m), and;
- (3) A statement that the entire delay in filing the notice from the date that the notice was due under 35 U.S.C. §122(b)(2)(B)(iii) until the date the notice was filed was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

Petitioner states that the instant nonprovisional application is the subject of an application filed in an international application on December 12, 2002. However, the United States Patent and Trademark Office was unintentionally not notified of this filing within 45 days subsequent to the filing of the subject application in a foreign country.

¹ See PTO/SB/36 and paragraph on PTO/SB/64a for further information. Both may be downloaded at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/forms/index.html>.

On August 25, 2003, a Notice of Rescission of Nonpublication Request was filed with the Office, along with the instant petition.

In view of the above, this application became abandoned pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §1.22(b)(2)(B)(iii) and 37 C.F.R. §1.213(c) for failure to timely notify the Office of the filing of an application under a multilateral international agreement that requires publication of applications 18 months after filing.

The petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.137(f) is **GRANTED**.

Petitioner has submitted the notification of an international filing, paid the petition fee, and has made the proper statement of unintentional delay.

The instant petition has been found to be in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.137(f). Accordingly, the failure to timely notify the Office of a foreign or international filing within 45 days after the date of filing of such foreign or international application as provided by 35 U.S.C. §122(b)(2)(B)(iii) and 37 C.F.R. §1.213(c) is accepted as having been unintentionally delayed.

The previous Request and Certification under 35 U.S.C. §122(b)(2)(B)(i), filed with the original application papers, has been rescinded. A Corrected Filing Receipt which sets forth the projected publication date of January 8, 2004 accompanies this decision on petition.

It is noted that the address listed on the petition differs from the address of record. The application file does not indicate a change of correspondence address has been filed in this case, although the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. If petitioner desires to receive future correspondence regarding this application, the change of correspondence address must be submitted. A courtesy copy of this decision will be mailed to petitioner. However, all future correspondence will be directed to the address of record until such time as appropriate instructions are received to the contrary. Petitioner will not receive future correspondence related to maintenance fees unless a Change of Correspondence Address Form (PTO/SB/122) is submitted for the above-identified application. A blank Change of Correspondence Address Form (PTO/SB/122) may be found at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/forms/sb0122.pdf>.

It is not apparent whether the person signing the statement of unintentional delay was in a position to have firsthand or direct knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the delay at issue. Nevertheless, such statement is being treated as having been made as the result of a reasonable inquiry into the facts and circumstances of such delay². In the event that such an inquiry has not been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that the delay in paying the maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.378(c) was intentional, petitioner must notify the Office.

² See 37 CFR 10.18(b); cf. Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure; Final Rule Notice, 62 Fed. Reg. 53131, 53178 (October 10, 1997), 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 63, 103 (October 21, 1997).

After this decision is mailed, the application will be forwarded to Technology Center 1600 for further processing.

Telephone inquiries concerning *this decision* should be directed to Attorney Paul Shanoski at (703) 305-0011.



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